

REMARKS

Claims 1-40 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, 11, 17, 38, and 40 are the only independent claims.

Restriction Requirement

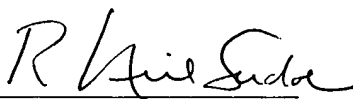
Claims 1-40 stand subject to a Restriction Requirement according to which the Examiner has divided the claims into two groups, namely, Group I including claims 1-16, 38 and 39 directed to a laparoscopic medical instrument and Group II containing claims 17-37 and 40 drawn to a cannula and instrument holder.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, applicant hereby elects the claims of Group II, i.e., claims 1-17 and 40, for continued prosecution in the application.

Should the Examiner believe that direct contact with applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 29, 2005